

BY HUBERT NORTHEN Copyright, 1902, by W. L. Vail.

plifles the truth and aptness of the poetical trope that

'man is a pendulum between a smile and a tear." he at one moment being given over to the abandon and license of unrestrained and exuberant humor and immediately thereafter being plunged into the Cimmerian darkness of the most dense and impenetrable melancholy. What he felt and experienced during the regnancy of the latter condition will never be known or even intelligently conjectured. His somber mood was the voiceless tomb of expression and confidences, but he shared the zest and exhibaration of his excursions to the shrine of Thalia or the fane of Joe Miller with all mankind. so far as dignity and the fitness of things are concerned, the outside world might consider that he mixed jokes and

business too intimately. It certainly does not appear fitting that he should introduce the first reading of the eman-cipation proclamation to his cabinet with Artemus Ward's story of a "high handed outrage at Utica," but we can't know to what extent the strain of formulating so mighty an event was neu-tralized by a brief sojourn in the Equally doubtful, if true, was the propriety of his alleged response to Lord Lyons upon the diplomatic encounter to announce the incident of in-ternational import—the marriage of

the Prince of Wales. To the formal speech of the embassador announcing the august event the great president is reported to have replied to the bache-lor minister, Lord Lyons, go thou and do likewise." If such an incident happened, it is not garnered except by left hand of history, but it is strictly Lincoltan and might well have happened anyway. Great and solemn oc-casions did not repress or deaden his propensity to joke. Thus at the Hampton Roads conference, as he and Seward entered at one end of the small cabin of the steamed River Queen, he saw the diminutive Stevens at the other end in the act of emerging from a huge overcoat.

the progress of that famous conurged the President to treat with the Confederates, citing the example of Charles I as a precedent, the President

be well versed in history,and therefore I refer you to Seward for details, but all that I do recol-lect of the precedent you cite is that Charles lost his head in the end." That folly and is the best instance of apt re-

Now, the essence of the first of these River Queen jokes was pure fun and nothing else, while the essence of the last one was strictly utilitarian-was absolutely demanded by the situation. It put Hunter and his proposition out of the ring, "put him to sleep," to use modern slang. It ended the Confeder-ate's function completely. But he sometimes went further in vanquishing an oposition than the bounds of good humor required. Thus, when a deputa-tion or rich men from New York waiten on the President in a dark hour of the nation's tribulation, begging for a gunboat to protect New York harbar, he manifested the utmost impatience and almost paralyzed them with this reply, "I am straining every nerve to meet the requirements of the army and navy at the front, and I have no gun-boat to give you; but if I was half as rich as you half a dozen men are and as scared as yau pretend to be I would furnish the gunboat myself instead begging the government for what it

He very rarely made either himself or any else a butt for a joke, and certainly never in malice. His humor uas usually impersonal. Once, how-ever, at City Point a little discussion arose as to what religion Halleck. I think, professed. "I think he's an Epis-copalian," said Lincoln, "because he swears just lits Seward does, and Sew-

ard is an Episcopalian."

More in unison with his methods was his story to illustrate why he did not fill certain vacancies, thus: A boy was making a church out of mud, Having got it substantially completed he was asked why he did not make a minister for it. "Kase I hain't got no mud left," was the obvious answer. In a similar vein, when a dash of the enemy cost the government three brigadies generals and a lot of army mules, he lamented the loss of the mules, ex-plaining that he could replace the gen-erals by a dash of the pen, but that the mules would cost well on to a hundred dollare apiece,

But his sarcasm was so infrequent and withal so mild as to scarcely de



"I wish he would quit."

speech "whiskey" case, when Lincoln, bored beyond endurance, said, "I wish he would quit, for I'm afraid the jury will agree, so as to get here to hear that speech." But this bit of sarcasm was righly deserved.

In like manner during the war the Union men for forage, etc., taken by

R. LINCOLN'S career exem- the army reminded him of Captain boat through the rapids of the Illinois boiling current a small boy tugged at the pilot's coattail and shouted, "Cap'n stop de boat, for I've lost my apple overboard"." Trivial matters amused mina. A long experience with wit and badinage had not made callous or blunted his sense of the ludicrous. Thus at the Bloomington convention ne had occasion to introduce the court by, polite, exqusite Browning to the recoarse, irreverent Wentworth. "I've heard much of you," began the prig. "D-d much against me, I reckon!" blutted out the boor. Lincoln was

wont to laugh over this very often.
Many of his stories were comparisons of the situation in hand with some-thing that happened down in-some-where. "That's like the man down in Indiana" was the frequent introduction. Thus, when after a long interval of silence he received news not altogether favorable from Burnside, beleagured a Knoxville, he neither lamented at the untoward aspect of the news nor enuntoward aspect of the news nor enthused at getting news at all, but simply said, "That's like Sally Ward, who had thirteen children, that were accustomed to stray out into the woods, from the depths of which would occasionally float on infantile cry of disnoter, when Sally would exclaim, "Thank heaven, there's one of my children what ain't dead yet!"

In order to illustrate the moral uncleanliness of certain unsavory politicians he was reminded of a "feller" who applied to a physician for advice

in and about a cutaneuous disease. He needed a very simple remedy, so a preacription was given him somewhat thus: "R. Sapon, castile oz. 8. Aquæ puræ gal. 4. Misce. Apply to all parts of the body with a sponge and wipe dry with a towel." "That simply parts of the body with a sponge and wipe dry with a towel." "That simply means washing me!" exclaimed the dirty sufferer. 'It certainly is open to that objection,' replied the physician.

In a similar vein he took the starch out of a vainglorious applicant for a minor office who, in order to magnify his importance hove in quite unnecessarily the suggestion that he sprang Vermont. "Never mind," said the jo-cose President; "that won't be very much against you."
So, in order to illustrate the well

known aphorism that the remedy prosituation exigency it was supposed reminded of the man down in Danville who ad occasion to head up a hogs not clearly discern how to keep the head in position while he tight-ened the staves

by driving the

hoops down

but a brilliant expedient

struck him. He then placed

"That won't be much against you."

in the hogshead, where his height just served to keep the recalcitrant heading in place, when he adjusted the head properly, and the experiment seemed to be a success till the imprisoned boy yelled, "Let me out of here!"

Once he came in official contact with Judge Baldwin, the author of the humorous book so highly prized by Lincoln. "Flush Times in Alabama." Had be known who his distinguished within coin. "Flush Times in Alabama." Had he known who his distinguished visitor was his reception would have been dif-ferent, for the President cherished a real humorist above all men. The judge was born and bred in the Shenandoah valley and migrated first to Alabama, where he wrote this book; thence to California, where he became chief justice of the state, and, seeking n 1863 to revisit his childhood's home came on to Washington and applied first to Justice Field, then to Halleck, both of whom he well knew, to gain the needed permission; but, being cir-cumvented by Stanton, he, convoyed by Justice Field, sought the aid of the President, who asked if he had seen Stanton. Yes, he had and had been contemptuously turned down. "Then," said Lincoln, "I can't help you, for I've very little influence with this adminis-

He was accustomed to narrate this experience while he was in Congress: Upon an occasion of tellers being somehow unimportant atter a pudgy zigzag, bachanthe rear of the house down the making strenuous efforts keep his head in line, "as if he had a drop of sweat on the

mem

which he was afraid would

very little influ- Lincoln's

ence with this admin- words. The sight istration," was so ludicrous attention was fixed on this staggering devote of Bacchus, and no member attempted to follow, but when he reached the tellers he suspecting something to be wrong, carefully turning his head and realizing the comical to him, said, "Oh, h-!!" and with the situation of the suspection of the situation of drunken gravity staggered back to hi It was stated at the time that Ben Wade, chairman of the committee on the conduct of the war, called to com-plain of something when Lincoln start-ed to say, "That is like the story"

ed to say, "That is like the story"—
when Wade roared out: "Yes, it's all
story, story, story, and the country
going to h—!!, It ain't a mile from h—!
this minute!" "Just the distance to
the carpitol, 'said the amused President
as the trate senator rushed out, trying
to put his hat on the floor and his cane
on his head.

As to the form of humor, Mark Twals in his essay on "How to Tell a Story says it depends entirely on the manne of its narration, while wit depends or e essence of the matter. And this dis-Lincoln, for even his stories need the Smith.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN-

inspiration of his action to achieve Inspiration of his action to achieve their crowning merit, and, as to the essence of humor. Carlyle aptly says that "the essence of humor is sensibility—warm, tender fellow feeling, with all forms of existence. * * * Unless sensoned and purified by humor sensibility * * * will readily corrupt into disease, falsehood or * * * sentimentality."

And Mr. Lincoln's penchant for humor was not an inane diversion, but was the fringe and passementerie of a great crisis in government.

How Lincoln Paid a Board Bill.

While Mr. Lincoln was studyin- law at Petersburg, Ill., he and a friend named Hanks, also a law student, boarded at Alfred Gordon's house. He was an old friend of the Lincoln family, and as he did not charge the young men anything for board they undertook to make rails enough for his two farms.

LINCOLN and DOUGLAS

Incidents of the Famous Political Campaign Debate of 1858.

BY CHARLES P. BUTTON.

(Copyright, 1902, by Hamilton Musk.) The rival senatorial candidates, Lincoln and Douglas, did not travel in company, but occasionally met on the way bound for the same destination. Once, each with a large following (myself among them in the Douglas crowd), they steamed down the Mississippi on a little stern wheeler belonging on White river.

As we went down stream Mr. Lincoln took his stand in the bow of the boat, seeming to look intently ahead, though from the speculation in his eye. I saw he was thinking deeply. He did not rouse until some one called out, 'Say, Mr. Lincoln, doesn't this remind you of old times?" He smiled reminiscently and nodded, saying, with a sly look at Judge Douglas: "Yes. It was on this river I learned how to keep from striking snags." We understood that he meant the argumentative pitfalls Douglas had so often set for him.

The debate was wearing, all alleviations of chance and change and personal encounters to the contrary notwithstanding. The debaters themselves felt it—more, I think, than any of their immediate followers. On one notable occasion, when it fell to Douglas's lo On one notable to close, I saw Mr. Lincoln during the last speech slip almost unnoticed from the platform. I met him at the steps. Douglas had just said something which caught the crowd and set it yelling its loudest. "This seems to be something of a Douglas crowd," Mr. Lincoln said as he saw me. "I'm going to steal off for a little rest, as I

am far from feeling well."

"Let me go with you," I answered.
So together we tramped at least four blocks, and though the town seemed to be deserted it struck me as some-what strange that in all that distance not a human being appeared to recog-nize my champion, although he was so marked a figure and the foremost man of his party. He reached the hotel utterly exhausted. In an hour, at the outside, the meeting would be over and crows trooping to see him. At my suggestion he asked for another room than the suit engaged for him. There was none vacant, but the clerk upon finding out who wanted it obligingly put his room at Mr. Lincoln's dis-posal. I helped him to it. Then he got his boots off, bound a wet towel around his head and stretched himself on the bed with a sigh of relief. After thanking me warmly, he said? "Telf them not to disturb me. I will be down stairs as soon as I am rested." I knew, however, that that would be tile and acted on my own judgment. g outside, I locked the door, then the key back over the transom. Intil he himself chose to reappear, re-reshed and ready, only the clerk and is two knew of his whereabouts, al-hough, as may be guessed, a pretty other set up when people found his egular rooms wide open and himself

onspleuously absent. At Alton, Oct. 15, the great debate same to a sala ending. I can make no approximation even to the number of people who saw it. They were there Louis, but a little way off, sent teeming thousands. Every city, every considerable town even, of Illinois furnished delegations of both parties to swell the swarm. There were many likewise from the Missouri towns, and

rom Indiana and Kentucky. Both Lincoln and Douglas were like schoolboys who have finished to their own complete satisfaction some extra wearing task. They met when the last speech was made at the home of



BI H. C. WHITHET Copyright, 1902, by H. C. Whitney.

Copyright, 1902, by H. C. Whitney.) The usual and ordinary belief is that the career of the ultimately successful man is an uninterrupted and unbroken series of current successes from zero to affluence or renown. In practice, however, it appears that the progress of the successful and unsuccessful alike is strewn with current misfortunes, humiliations, checks and disasters, and that the adventurer who shall have attained the goal of ultimate defeat may nevertheless have been highly favored of fortune in life's journey, while the laureled victor may have trodden the wine press of humiliation and defeat all of his days but the last.

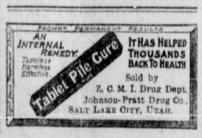
Mr. Lincoln's career as a business man may be thus summarized: After practicing law and living in the most frugal and economical manner for a quarter of a century, being meantime his own hostler and errand boy and attending to his own woodpile, cowyard and pigpen himself, he had accumu-lated \$10,000 worth of property when he was elected as President of the Unithe was elected as President of the Unit-ed States, and having consumed his capital for current uses in living during the months preceding the inauguration he was compelled to borrow every cent of money which he had in his pocket when he started to Washington and which he repaid out of the earliest re-celpts from the presidential salary. On Jan. 5, 1859, the day of Douglas' On Jan. 5, 1859, the day of Douglas' last election to the United States Sen-

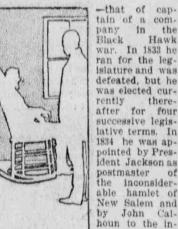
ate by the Illinois legislature, I was alone with Mr. Lincoln from bedtime, and 1 feel authorized to say that no was so gloomy dejected and dispirited no man so surely and heartily deemed his life to have been an abject and lamentable failure as he then conhave been. never saw any man so radical-ly and thoroughly depressed, so com-His own hostler and in the bitter wa-

despair. The sur roundings, even, were eloquent of flat, prosaic failure. I found him utterly alone and sitting in an old rocking chair doing absolutely, nothing but brooding over his griefs and political discomfiture. He was in his office, one of the most neglected and ungarnished offices in the state.

My feelings were in unison with his, and our conversation was as cheerless and dismal as the somber and melan-sholy surroundings, and yet in twentytwo months from that doleful and gloomy day this recipient of fortune's frowns had sounded the highest note in the gamut of ostensible and apparent success, for 1,857,610 citizens, em bracing the elite of the nation, ha elected him to be the ruler of 40,000,000

And his early career as a politician may be thus exhibited: On April 21 1832, he was elected to his first office





postmaster the incons inconsider New Salem and by John Calhoun to the in consequentia found bim utterly position of dep-alone uty surveyor of Sangamon county. He was an unsuccessful competitor for a nomination for Congress in 1844—if not also before— and in the year 1846 he was both nominated for and elected to a seat in Con-

Hawk

On May 29, 1856, Mr. Lincoln made his renowned speech before the Bloomington convention, known to a high fame as the "lost speech," which was the highest oratorical triumph that had been exhibited in the political arena in Illinois up to that date. It placed him on the highest pinnacle of fame as an impassioned and effective orator. Three days thereafter he and Herndon, his law partner, deemed it proper to ratify the proceedings of the convention at which such a marvel of political oratory had been achieved, and accordingly at Springfield. Lincoln's own home, Herndon got out huge posters and at quite an expense engaged a band of music, rang the bells and employed all the nies.ns which enthusiasm and enterprise could suggest in order to attract a large audience, including the then primitive practice of blowing a horn. The hall of the House of Representatives was lit up to its full capacity, and no effort was omitted to insure success in that was omitted to insure success in that enterprise. But the evening advanced, and up to a late hour but one man came except Lincoln and his partner, the ever faithful Herndon. Lincoln, somewhat amused and quite chagrined, made a brief speech, thus: "Gentlemen, this meeting is larger than I knew it would be. I knew that Herndon and myself would come, but I did not know that anyone else would be here, and yet another has come, you, John Pain. These are sad times and seem o the age is not dead. It lives as sure as our Maker lives. Under all this seeming want of life and motion the world does move, nevertheless. Be hopeful, and

now let us adjourn to the people."

And thus, as has offtimes been demonstrated in history, the aphorism that "a prophet is not without honor but in his own country and among his own kin and in his own house" was again verified in this case, for this man, whom in June, 1856, his own neigh-bors rejected, four years later the sov-ereign people of the nation made the headstone of the corne This subject may be further illustrate

ed by an incident which occurred during that same political canvass was at a white heat. A zealous Republican Monticello. Piatt county, wrote several earnest invitations invitations to come there and speak, assuring him of a good turnout. Linturnout. Lindressing a very large

at Bloomington. went to Monti-'And yet another has cello the ardent hopes

Lincoln

meeting

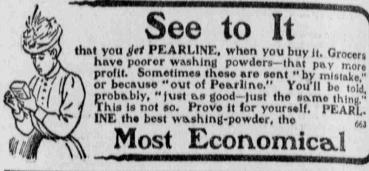
spondent. Reaching town, he sought out the residence of his enthusiastic correspondent, where he found him working with his drawknife, while his wife was industriously getting dinner for their distinguished guest, After dinner Lincoln and his improvised host started for the grove which was to be the scene of the meeting, their way leading through the village. The man

staggering under the flag and its staff,and Lincoln did not realize the Iudicrousness of the situation until he heard some of the town people commenting up-on the "long being Lincoln and his solitary friend, each of them being over six feet tall. But was no meeting. The town, being composed chiefly of Kentucki-ans, rejected his ideals ically and unit- "The long procession."

obverse face of the medal. Within few days after the inauguration March 4, 1860, I sat with the gr March 4, 1860, I sat with the great President and a young friend in from President and a young friend in front of the fireplace, in which was a hearth fire, in the executive office at Washington. I had called to ask that he give our mutual young friend the secretary, ship to sign land patents. Strange to relate, he had been in office but a few days and yet he appeared quite as miserable and gloomy as on the 5th of January, 1859, heretofore narrated. He had been unreasonably found fault with by uary, 1859, heretofore narrated. He had been unreasonably found fault with by the press and point clans for the alleged improper bestowment of some early appointments, and his sensitive nature was stirred to its prefoundest depths. It was singular that so virile and courageous a natore in grave matters should have been so supersensitive about comparative trifles. He concluded our interview in these identical words. "It is an awful thing to say, but I wish I was back home in peace and some one else was here in my prace."

Lincoln's Appearance. Lincoln was as unusual in personal

appearance as in character. He was muscular in frame, 6 feet 4 inches (all. and weighed about 180 pounds. His hair was black and luxurlant, eyes brown, nose long and mouth large,



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